

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 14, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 505**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian**

February 20, 2013

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An act to add Section 14029.91 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 505, as amended, Nazarian. Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Under existing law, one of the methods by which Medi-Cal services are provided is pursuant to contracts with various types of managed care plans.

This bill would require the department to require all managed care plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal ~~services~~ *services, except as specified*, to provide language assistance services, which includes interpretation and translation services, to limited-English-proficient Medi-Cal beneficiaries, as defined. The bill would require the department to determine when a limited-English-proficient population meets the requirement for translation services, as prescribed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14029.91 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:
  - 3 14029.91. (a) The department shall require all managed care  
4 plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal services  
5 to provide language assistance services to  
6 limited-English-proficient (LEP) Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are  
7 mandatorily enrolled in managed care in the following manner:
    - 8 (1) Interpretation services shall be provided in any language on  
9 a 24-hour basis at all points of service.
    - 10 (2) Translation services shall be provided to the language groups  
11 identified by the department.
  - 12 (b) The department shall determine when an LEP population  
13 meets the requirement for translation services using one of the  
14 following numeric thresholds:
    - 15 (1) A population group of 3,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries who  
16 are mandatorily enrolled in managed care, residing in the service  
17 area, who indicate their primary language as other than English.
    - 18 (2) A population group of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are  
19 mandatorily enrolled in managed care, residing in the service area,  
20 who indicate their primary language as other than English, and  
21 that meet a concentration standard of 1,000 beneficiaries in a single  
22 ZIP Code or 1,500 beneficiaries in two contiguous ZIP Codes.
  - 23 (c) The department shall make this determination if any of the  
24 following occurs:
    - 25 (1) A nonmanaged care county becomes a new managed care  
26 county.
    - 27 (2) A new population group becomes a mandatory Medi-Cal  
28 managed care beneficiary population.
    - 29 (3) A period of three years has passed since the last  
30 determination.
  - 31 (d) The department shall instruct managed care plans, by means  
32 of incorporating the requirement into plan contracts, all-plan letters,  
33 or similar instructions, of the language groups that meet the  
34 numeric thresholds.

1 (e) For purposes of this section, a person is  
2 “limited-English-proficient” if he or she speaks English less than  
3 very well.

4 (f) *This section shall not apply to mental health plans*  
5 *contracting with the department pursuant to Section 14712.*

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